

TRAVEL • THINGS TO DO

These Are America's Most Gorgeous Botanical Gardens

Come for the flowers, stay for the vibes.

By Matt Meltzer, Kastalia Medrano, and Thrillist Travel
 Updated on 3/24/2023 at 1:04 PM



Find some fragrant, beautiful peace with a trip to a botanical garden. | Cole Saladino/Thrillist

There's something about visiting an enormous, carefully cultivated garden that brings a sense of peace. More meticulous than the national parks of the world, and more robustly floral than even the best city parks, America's most stunning botanical gardens offer a chance to reconnect with nature—and yourself—amongst the blooms of the season.



Take a break from the beach to hit this botanical garden. | Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Coral Gables, Florida

Located far down Old Cutler Road from the steel and glass high-rises of Brickell, and across Biscayne Bay from the bright lights of South Beach, this 83-acre tropical oasis sits as a shady escape in Miami's coolest suburb. Here visitors can get a taste of what Miami was like before the swamps were dredged; mangrove gardens, pine rocklands, and palm savannahs dot the landscape, while flamingos huddle in the shallow lakes under the palms.

The collections here are impressive, to say the least. You can see 40 species of tropical birds at the Wings of the Tropics Conservancy, and another 450 species of rare plants in the 16,500-square-foot Tropical Plant Conservancy. While communing with nature might not be at the top of everyone's Miami to-do list, a trip here feels more tropical than almost anywhere in the city.